Nov. ?

Ministers and mothers with children have gone to jail. Workers who have been faithful to one rancher for several years have decided that they can work for him no longer. People from all over California and from the rest of the United States have given from their purses and their pantries. Why? Because they believe that all men are brothers. That all men must unite in action to prove this belief. That all men, as brothers, have the right to share in the good things which America has promised them. And so there is a grape strike in Delano.

Over 2 months ago the grape pickers, who live in Delano and the surrounding area, that since they and their children could not live without want and sacrifice on the low wages which they were being paid—they would ask for something better: for $1.40 an hour, for $1.25 a box, for better working conditions, and for a union contract. A union contract which would give them the security of permanently better wages and conditions. A union contract which would enable them to work for those things which they cannot now obtain easily: good credit, unemployment and medical insurance, and social security benefits in their old age. A union contract which would give them the power to bargain as men—men on an equal footing with the growers because they are men TOGETHER owning something which the grower needs—hands to pick and prune his grapes, and to weed and care for his vineyards.

And the people in Delano are not alone on this strike. Strike-breakers from outside the area have come out of the fields because they believe that they are equal to the growers—that they have the power to say NO when the grower wants them to live on an unlivable wage. Union locals state wide and ordinary people keep on giving food and money, and send in reports of work outside the strike area. Because they believe that all men are equal, and that this strike can prove that pickers and growers are equal.

You are not helping this strike by working in the grapefields in the Delano-McFarland-Earlimart area. You are denying 3000 men and their families who are courageously enduring a hard time during the strike their knowledge that they are men and have the power to gain their rights and their equality. Please do not work in the grapes in the strike area. Join your hands with those of the other strikers. Present your hands together as one big hand to the growers—one giant hand stretched out for the better wages and working conditions which a union can give.

Farm Workers Association
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